SHRI T.R. BAALU: Kindly allow me to reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister reply please.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, in the case of western offshore, the total flaring is 1.87; Maharashtra — nil; Gujarat — 0.92; Madhya Pradesh — nil; Uttar Pradesh — nil; Rajasthan —nil; Delhi — nil; Haryana — nil; Assam — 0.64.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Then you withdraw your Economic Survey.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Arunachal Pradesh — 0.10; Tripura — nil; Andhra Pradesh — nil; Tamil Nadu — 0.15.

Sir, in the case of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, the total production is 4.03 MMSCMD. The percentage of flare thus works out to around 11 per cent of the total gas produced. Actually, the gas produced in Arunachal Pradesh is not connected to the main field in Assam and this gas is allocated to an industrial set-up for production of micro crystalline wax. The technical flaring in Assam is for reasons like small quantities of gas in remote and isolated oil wells, very low pressure gas at the Oil Collecting Stations and the minimum quantity required to keep the pilot burners on in the flare pits, and it amounts to around 5 per cent (0.2 MMSCMD). Frequent variations in market offtake account for around 1.8 per cent (0.07 MMSCMD). For the balance 2.2 per cent (around 0.09 MMSCMD), compressors are being installed in various locations which are expected to be fully commissioned during 1997.

Therefore, Sir, this matter is being taken up by the Ministry. New pipelines are being provided.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: What about the Kelkar Committee Report?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us give a little rest to the hon. Minister.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: We share the feeling of compassion of the Chair towards the Minister!

*86. *[The questioner (Shri Maheshwar Singh) was absent. For answer vide col. 33 infra].*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 87.

AN HON. MEMBER: Again Mr. Baalu has to answer, Sir. ....*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baalu, the questioner of Question No. 86 has not turned up. .....*(Interruptions)*.... It is your stars today!

Oil Pool Account Deficit

*87. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI RAGHAVJI: †

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a deficit in the Oil pool account since 1989-90;

(b) if so, details thereof, year-wise;

(c) what are the details of steps Government are contemplating to take for tiding over the problem; and

(d) whether Government also propose to increase the prices of petroleum products to cover the deficit; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Deficits have arisen in the pool account because the sales realisation from the products did not fully cover the

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri Raghavji.

costs incurred. As a result of deficit/ surplus position in the Oil Pool Account, the consequent cumulative Oil Companies' outstandings payable by OCC from 1989-90 onwards are as follows:

As on	Rs./Crores
31.03.90	1,798
31.03.91	2,908
31.03.92	5,095
31.03.93	4,904
31.03.94	5,050
31.03.95	3,765
31.03.96	5,701
31.03.97 (Estimated)	15,500

The position of the oil pool account is monitored on a continuous basis and remedial measures taken to contain the deficit.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the deficit and outstandings towards OCC on 31st March 1990 was Rs 1,798 crores and it would go up by 31st March 1997, estimatedly, to Rs. 15,500 crores. So, it is near about 10 times. I want to know what are the main reasons for that—whether it is due to the fact that indigenous production has gone down and also because the cost of indigenous production has gone up. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, on 31.3.1997 there will be a deficit of Rs. 15,500 crores because of various reasons. You know it pretty well that the import bill has gone up, there has been appreciation of the dollar value and depreciation of the rupee value and the product demand has gone up to the level of 10 per cent. To cope with the demand, the refining capacity is there but, at the same time, crude oil import has caused the problem.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: Sir, my question has not been fully answered. I have asked whether it is due to the reasons that indigenous production has gone down and also because indigenous production is costing more. Please reply to that.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I have already answered it in my reply to the previous question. There is some depletion in the production of crude oil and, at the same time, the per barrel price which was 17-odd dollars during July, 96 went up to 23 dollars per barrel from September, 96 onwards. So it has created problems in the Oil Pool Account.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: Sir, here is my second question. For the last two years the local production has been going down. What is the Government proposing to do to raise local production? I would also like to know whether private participation is allowed and whether multinationals have been invited for the production of oil in India.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, oil production has gone down—I have already admitted that. But we need not have any panic; it is not an alarming situation. Actually, three, four years back the situation was like that, but now it has been brought under control. We have already launched the accelerated programme and oil production will be raised. We have got the refining capacity. But it is the crude oil import which is causing the problem. It is all dependent on the international market. Because of the international market prices, we could not cope with the situation.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: I am asking, what steps are being taken to raise production in the country, whether private participation has been sought or not and, if sought, what are the reasons for that?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, we are already encouraging private participation. More than 30 exploration blocks have been awarded to private people and, also, 30 development blocks have already been awarded. So, we are encouraging private participation.

SHRI SURESH A. KESWANI: Will the Government come out with a healthy oil policy to make sure that the production of oil and the consumption thereof is done in such a logical manner

that we have the best use for it. Today the use of oil is not at all regulated. We are not in a position to get the best realisation. International fluctuation in prices causes such wide losses to us in forcign exchange, and we are not using oil in the most....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

I was waiting for you to finish the sentence, but you did not.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Target for Rural Houses Under IAY

*82. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target for construction of rural houses under the Indira Awas Yojana during the current financial year, State-wise;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the pace of implementation to achieve the target; and

(c) if not, what measures are contemplated to accelerate the pace?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(b) Pace of construction under Indira Awas Yojana is by and large satisfactory.

(c) the progress of the scheme is being vigorously monitored.

Statement

Targets fixed under Indira Awas Yojana during 1996-97 for different States/UTs are as under

State/UT	Target
Andhra Pradesh	84640
Arunachal Pradesh	631
Assam	29197
Bihar	151453
Goa	1736
Gujarat	33633
Haryana	6983
Himachal Pradesh	2165
Jammu & Kashmir	5347
Karnataka	53181
Kerala	18554
Madhya Pradesh	147902
Maharashtra	81120
Manipur	808
Meghalaya	946
Mizoram	398
Nagaland	1014
Orissa	62248
Punjab	4966
Rajasthan	50325
Sikkim	369
Tamil Nadu	71598
Tripura	1051
Uttar Pradesh	241251
West Bengal	70979
A&N Islands	337
D&N Haveli	278
Daman & Diu	120
Lakshadweep	0
Pondicherry	330
TOTAL	1123560

Import of Gas from Oman and Iran

*84. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the feasibility study of importing gas from Oman and Iran to be used in power stations in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to supply this imported gas to Pipavav Power Project in Gujarat; and

(c) if not, how Government propose to supply fuel to the Pipavav Power Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):